

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
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R 151024Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7856
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0847

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, CH, ZA
SUBJ: CHINESE AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS

1. NEWLY ARRIVED PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AMBASSADOR
KU PAHAI PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS TO ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT

KENNETH KAUNDA IN A RTATE HOUSE CEREMONY MARCH 14. IN
HIS REMARKS FOLLOWING THE PRESENTATION, KAUNDA PRAISED
THE PRC FOR ITS ASSISTANCE TO ZAMBIA, ESPECIALLY THE
"UHURU" RAILWAY LINKING TANZANIA AND ZAMBIA, AND ADDED,
" BUT NOTHING STANDS OUT MORE THAN THE EXAMPLE CHINA GIVES
THE REST OF THE WORLD REGARDING SELFLESSNESS IN THE
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STRUGGLE AGAINST IMPERIALISM AND EXPLOITATION."

2. AMBASSADOR KU SAID THAT CHINA APPRECIATED ZAMBIA'S
ROLE IN THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.
HE STATED THAT DURING HIS TENURE HE WOULD WORK CLOSELY
WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA TO DEVELOP FURTHER THE FRIENDLY
RELATIONS AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

3. COMMENT: AMBASSADOR KU ONLY ARRIVED IN ZAMBIA ON MARCH 10, AND THE FOUR DAY INTERVAL BEFORE PRESENTING CREDENTIALS MAY BE THE SHORTEST ON RECORD HERE. THE SPEED WITH WHICH THE CEREMONY WAS ARRANGED MAY BE INDICATIVE OF HOW COMFORTABLE THE ZAMBIAN LEADERSHIP FEELS IN ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA WHICH HAS BEEN NURTURED BY VISITS OF TOP ZAMBIAN OFFICIALS TO CHINA AS WELL AS BY MATERIAL ASSISTANCE. PRESIDENT KAUNDA IS REPORTEDLY PLANNING A TRIP TO CHINA FOR LATE SPRING, WHICH SHOULD STRENGTHEN RELATIONS FURTHER.

4. IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CURRENT SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, ZAMBIANS PROBABLY SEE CHINA AS A SOMEWHAT MORE NEUTRAL FORCE THAN THE WEST OR THE SOVIET UNION, BOTH OF WHOM THE ZAMBIANS PERCEIVE AS HAVING THEIR OWN SPECIAL INTERESTS TO PURSUE. WITH THE CHINESE COUNSELING AND RAILING EQUALLY AGAINST THE DANGERS OF IMPERIALISM AND HEGEMONISM, AMBASSADOR KU MAY BE INCREASINGLY ABLE TO GET THE EAR OF THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT.
LOW

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